(b) is so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Modernisation of Jute Industry

2503. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had any programme for the modernisation of Jute Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far the aforesaid programme has been implemented and with what results;

(d) the future plans of the Government for the modernisation of Jute Industry; and

(e) the time schedule prepared by the Government for their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Jute Modernisation Fund was set up by Government of India in 1986 to cater to the modernisation requirements of the jute industry on the usual terms applicable for such loans. The fund also provides special loans at a concessional interest rate of 6% per annum to meet up to 80 % of the promoters contribution of weak but viable units in order to enable them to avail of modernisation assistance. The special loans are repayable over a period of 12 years, with a moratorium for the first six years.

(c) 39 mills had applied for modernisation assistance under the Jute Modernisation Fund till the end of May 1991. 5 of these applications were later withdrawn. IFCI has sanctioned assistance in respect of 22 applications and rejected 9 applications. In the case of 2 applications, processing has been completed and these cases are awaiting disposal by the BIFR. 1 application is under preliminary scrutiny of the Financial Institutions. Rs. 88·58 crores has been sanctioned in the case of 22 applications, out of which Rs. 25·55 crores has been disbursed in respect of 10 cases.

(d) and (e) The progress of the utilisation of the Jute Modernisation Fund is reviewed and monitored regularly by a Committee which includes representatives of the Government of India, the Government of West Bengal, banks and financial institutions.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Land to Civilians in Cantonment Areas

2504. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure laid down for allotment of land to civilians for their residence in Cantonment areas;

(b) whether there is any proposal for giving ownership rights of such land being used by civilians for self residence; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) The existing policy does not envisage allotment of Defence lands, in Cantonment areas, to civilians for residential purposes. However, Defence lands already held on lease/old grant terms by civilians in certain Cantonments, can be converted into freehold on payment of the prescribed conversion charges, provided the site is not required for Defence or public purposes.

[*English*]

New Policy for Industry

2505. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new policy for Indin